

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 5 1. In a system which supports Code Division Multiple Access (CDMA) communication among a group of terminals wherein the terminals share access to a predetermined number of coded traffic channels, a method comprising the steps of:
 - 10 determining a schedule of assignment of traffic channels to active terminals for a sequence of predetermined time periods;
 - 15 for each terminal designated as active during such time periods, assigning a terminal unit identifier;
 - for each terminal designated as active during each time period, assigning an identifier of a list of active channels for such terminal unit; and
 - prior to the start of each time period, sending messages on a paging channel, the messages indicating terminal unit identifiers and the identifier of the list of active channels for such time period.
- 20 2. A method as in claim 1 wherein the predetermined time period is a code epoch repeat duration associated with codes that are used to encode the transmissions of the traffic channels.
- 25 3. A method as in claim 2 additionally comprising the step of:
 - for at least one selected terminal unit, receiving the paging channel messages, and detecting a paging channel message intended for itself by comparing a received terminal identifier from the paging channel message to a previously assigned terminal identifier.

12. A method as in claim 1 wherein the paging channel messages also indicate a coding rate for the associated traffic channels.

5 13. A method as in claim 2 wherein the paging channel message also indicates a reverse link channel identifier for the terminal to use during the associated epoch.

10 14. A method as in claim 1 wherein the paging channel message also includes a controller message field for carrying a message to a control processor located in the terminal.

15 15. A method as in claim 1 wherein a coded traffic channel is shared among multiple terminal units, and the paging channel message further specifies how the traffic channel data in the associated epoch is to be allocated among the terminal units.

20 16. A system which supports Code Division Multiple Access (CDMA) communication among a group of terminals wherein the terminals share access to a predetermined number of coded traffic channels, the system comprising:
a controller that contains a traffic channel assignment scheduler that determines a schedule of assignment of traffic channels to active terminals for predetermined time periods; and
a transmitter, for prior to the start of each predetermined time period, sending a message on a paging channel that indicates active terminals and active channels for such time period.

25 17. A system as in claim 16 additionally comprising:

a traffic channel pipe configurer, that determines a list of active channels for the predetermined time period, and assigns a pipe identifier to the list; and
wherein the paging channel message transmitter message that indicates active channels by sending the pipe identifier.

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18. A system as in claim 16 additionally comprising:

a receiver, located at one of the terminal units, for receiving the paging channel messages, and detecting a paging channel message intended for itself by comparing a received terminal identifier from the paging channel message to a previously assigned terminal identifier.

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19. A system as in claim 17 additionally comprising the step of:

at the receiver in the terminal unit, on a predetermined subsequent time period, processing active traffic channels as indicated from the list of active traffic channels indicated by the pipe identifier in a received paging channel message.

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20. A system as in claim 16 wherein the paging channel messages are time slotted.

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21. A system as in claim 16 wherein the paging channel forms a portion of a forward link communication channel.

22. A system as in claim 16 wherein the terminals are remote located wireless subscriber access units.

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23. A system as in claim 17 wherein the transmitter sends the paging channel message at a time advanced sufficiently to permit code setup in the receiver prior to a time period containing the associated traffic channel data.

24. A system as in claim 16 wherein the paging channel messages also indicate a coding rate for the associated traffic channels.

5 25. A method as in claim 16 wherein the paging channel message also indicates a reverse link channel identifier for the terminal to use during the associated time period.

10 26. A system as in claim 16 wherein the paging channel message also includes a controller message field for carrying a message to a control processor located in the terminal.

15 27. A system as in claim 16 wherein a coded traffic channel is shared among multiple terminal units, and the paging channel message further specifies how the traffic channel data in the associated epoch is to be allocated among the terminal units.